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Remarks

Applicant requests a one-month extension of time, making this due on or before December 10, 2004. This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 10, 2004.

Claims 2 and 6-12 have been rejected over Stavermann, EP 0955 213. Stavermann shows a bar 26 on which a slide element 24 (a loop) of an air bag is slidable. The bar includes a double-bend forming a "locking component 28."

The present invention differs from Stavermann in that the pending claims do not require the air bag to be locked in place as a slide counteracts with a lock or hook as shown in Stavermann. Stavermann teaches a system in which his air bag is locked in place upon his bar, the locking element 28 at least prohibiting upward movement of the air bag. In contrast, the present invention includes a single bend, which permits the air bag to move up and down the bar as it deploys and in response to forces acting on the air bag and generated by the air bag as it inflates. When fully deployed the air bag can still be moved up and down from the apex formed by the single bend in the bar and the slide or slidable anchor can again self-center in the apex. The above is not taught by Stavermann.

In view of the aforementioned, it is respectfully urged that the present application be reconsidered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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